

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

SENATOR JENSEN: Okay, and it's...also, I believe, in your opening that you said, however, OPS has not used that in the past; is that correct?

SENATOR RAIKES: Right, right. To draw the contrast between, say, Lincoln, which pretty much routinely, every time the city boundary expands, the Lincoln Public Schools' boundary also expands, so they're coterminous. With Omaha, that's not been the case since, I'm not sure when. But certainly Ralston, Millard, parts of the Elkhorn School District and so on, are examples where that practice hasn't been followed.

SENATOR JENSEN: In real estate they talk about something about sleeping on your rights. If you don't act on issues at a particular time, you lose those. Can anything like that be brought into this case, or no?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I think, as a matter of fact, Senator, that was a key point in the legal analysis that Senator Brashear provided us, basically the notion that if you have an opportunity--OPS, in this case--to expand your district with the city and you don't do it, and another district sort of fills in the gap accordingly, then your opportunity to do that later is gone.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. Thank you for that. You know, I question--and I have right from the start, you know, what are we doing here? Is this a bill that's going to improve the education of the students? Is this a bill that is going to allow one school district to take over another school district? Is it about more funding, to achieve more funding? Is it to achieve more diversity? Is it to achieve more power? But boy, there's one thing I sure don't want to forget, and that's what we're all talking about with education--it is the student, and for me, anything that will not improve or will not maintain a quality education for the student, I just don't see any reason to do it. Now I happen to represent OPS, Westside and Millard. I've got grandkids in four suburban school districts; I'm a product of OPS, went to Lothrop Grade School, went to Tech High--wonderful building, I will say that, and I think I got a